

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 SAJ-01 ACDA-19

EB-11 FEA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /144 W

----- 129748

O P 181310Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1134

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS PRIORITY

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USNMR SHAPE

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VIENNA FOR MBFR DEL

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GENEVA FOR CSCE DEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MCAF, US, EEC, NATO, GW

SUBJECT: US/EUROPEAN RELATIONS: FRG REACTION TO
PRESIDENT'S LETTER AND CHICAGO REMARKS

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE PRESIDENT'S LATEST LETTER TO CHANCELLOR BRANDT AND SUBSEQUENT REMARKS IN CHICAGO CONCERNING US/EUROPEAN RELATIONS ARE THE SUBJECT OF CONSIDERABLE CRITICAL COMMENTARY IN THE WEEKEND GERMAN PRESS (SEPTEL). FRG STATEMENTS, BY SPOKESMAN GRUENEWALD AND FOREIGN MINISTER SCHEEL, SEEK TO MAINTAIN THE GOVERNMENT'S PUBLICLY COOL AND CALM POSTURE. IN AN INTERVIEW SCHEEL STRESSED THE NEED FOR IMPROVED INFORMATION AND CONSULTATION PROCEDURES BETWEEN THE EC AND US, AND SAID HE HAD MADE SUGGESTIONS TO HIS EC PARTNERS WHICH MUST NOW BE DISCUSSED WITH THE USG. SPOKESMEN ARE CRITICAL OF THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT AND ALSO OF THE USG, AND ARE SPEAKING OF THE ABSOLUTELY LOW POINT IN POST WAR ALLIANCE RELATIONS. STRAUSS HAS CALLED URGENTLY FOR AN EARLY ATLANTIC SUMMIT. END SUMMARY

1. ON MARCH 16 FRG SPOKESMAN GRUENEWALD, MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT CONCERNING US/EUROPEAN RELATIONS. BEGIN TEXT: THE PRESIDENT OF THE USA HAS ON MARCH 15 DELIVERED A LETTER TO THE CHANCELLOR, WHO HAS INFORMED THE CHIEFS OF GOVERNMENT OF THE OTHER EC MEMBER STATES CONCERNING ITS CONTENTS. PRESIDENT NIXON EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE WORK ON A COMMON DECLARATION OF THE NINE AND THE USA HAS NOT MADE SUFFICIENT PROGRESS SO THAT A MEETING FOR THE SIGNING OF THIS DECLARATION COULD BE ENVISAGED IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THESE CONSIDERATIONS DO NOT RELATE TO THE WORK ON THE DECLARATION WHICH IS ENVISAGED FOR THE OCCASION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATO ALLIANCE. THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT'S DECISION WILL ALLOW NECESSARY CONSIDERATION TO BE GIVEN, IN THE INTEREST OF AN IMPROVED COORDINATION BETWEEN THE NINE AND THE USA, WITHOUT TIME PRESSURE. END TEXT

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2. DURING AN INTERVIEW CARRIED ON MARCH 16 PRIME-TIME GERMAN TV NEWS, FOREIGN MINISTER SCHEEL SAID HE DID NOT INTERPRET THE PRESIDENT'S CHICAGO SPEECH "AS AN ATTACK (ON THE COMMUNITY) BUT RATHER THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS REPEATING PROBLEMS WHICH ARE NOT NEW BUT WHICH STILL ARE NOT SOLVED". SCHEEL SAID THESE PROBLEMS EXIST AS THE EC INTENDS TO HARMONIZE ITS FOREIGN POLICY AND TO BE A FACTOR IN WORLD POLITICS, AND AS A FACTOR IN

WORLD POLITICS THE COMMUNITY NATURALLY IS ALSO A FACTOR
FOR THE US AND ITS INTERESTS. SCHEEL SAID WE MUST NOW
SEEK "TO ASSURE THAT (THE EEC) WILL NOT COME
UNCONSCIOUSLY INTO A RIVALRY ON POLITICAL QUESTIONS
WITH THE US, BECAUSE WE HAVE WITH THE US THE SUPERIOR
COMMON INTERESTS OF SECURITY POLICY AND DEFENSE POLICY,
AND BOTH THINGS MUST BE COORDINATED TOGETHER". SCHEEL
SAID NO EC PARTNER HAS DENIED THAT COOPERATION WITH
THE EC IS, FOR BOTH THE US AND EC, A MATTER OF VITAL
INTEREST WHICH CANNOT BE RENOUNCED. AND IF ONE WISHES
TO COOPERATE IN THIS SO IMPORTANT AREA WITH THE US,
THEN ONE MUST SEEK, ALSO IN THE OTHER IMPORTANT
POLITICAL AREAS, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE TO COORDINATE SO
THAT THERE IS NO CONFRONTATION. THIS MEANS, SAID
SCHEEL, "THAT IT IS NECESSARY NOW THAT THE INFORMATION
AND CONSULTATION PROCEDURES BETWEEN THE EC AS SUCH AND

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THE US MUST BE IMPROVED". SCHEEL SAID HE ALREADY HAD
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IN THE LAST WEEK MADE SUGGESTIONS INSIDE THE COMMUNITY
AS TO HOW ONE COULD IMPROVE THE INFORMATION AND
CONSULTATION SYSTEM. AND NOW, HE ADDED, WE MUST
DISCUSS THESE SUGGESTIONS WITH THE US. SCHEEL CLOSED
WITH A POINT WE HAVE HEARD OFTEN FROM OUR FONOFF
CONTACTS: "I THINK IT IS MORE IMPORTANT TO SPEAK WITH
ONE ANOTHER THAN THAT THE TWO SIDES SPEAK AT ONE
ANOTHER AND POSSIBLY AGAINST ONE ANOTHER BEFORE THE
ENTIRE WORLD PUBLIC ONLY THROUGH THE NEWS AGENCIES."

3. MEANWHILE, CDU-CSU OPPOSITION LEADERS HAVE JOINED
THE VERBAL FRAY, CASTING IN VARIOUS DEGREES BLAME ON
THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT AND THE USG, BUT ABOVE ALL
DEMANDING SOME NEW INITIATIVE TO HALT THE DOWNWARD
SPIRAL IN ATLANTIC RELATIONS. CDU/CSU DEPUTY CHAIRMAN
(AND SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN MINISTER-PRESIDENT) GERHARD
STOLTENBERG TOLD THE WELT AM SONNTAG THAT PRESIDENT
NIXON'S CHICAGO REMARKS REFLECTED THE ABSOLUTE LOW
POINT IN POST-WAR US/GERMAN RELATIONS AND WARNED OF
SERIOUS DANGERS IN THE FIELDS OF SECURITY, TRADE AND
ENERGY. STOLTENBERG ADMONISHED THE GOVERNMENT TO
OVERCOME ITS PASSIVITY AND TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN
DEVELOPING A COMMON EUROPEAN APPROACH TO REVIVE THE
ALLIANCE. LAST THURSDAY, CDU/CSU PARTY CHAIRMAN
HELMUT KOHL BLASTED SCHEEL FOR FAILING TO CLARIFY EC
POSITION ON EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE FOR AND REACH AGREEMENT
WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER DURING THE LATTER'S BONN VISIT.
COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND THE NORMALLY PLACID SCHEEL WAS
OUTRAGED AT BEING PLACED IN THE ROLE OF "HEAVY", GIVEN
THE MINISTER'S VIEW THAT THE EC AND FRG POSITIONS HAD

BEEN CLARIFIED FOR THE SECRETARY AND THEREAFTER
MODIFIED END COMMENT

4. IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED BY THE MARCH 18 MASS-
CIRCULATION BILD ZEITUNG, CSU LEADER FRANZ JOSEF
STRAUSS DECLARED THAT THE US/EUROPEAN ALLIANCE "HAS
BEEN SHATTERED INTO LITTLE PIECES", DUE BOTH TO THE
FAILURE OF THE EUROPEANS (AND PARTICULARLY THE FRENCH)
TO STAND BY THE US ON ENERGY AND THE MID EAST, AND TO
THE US "DANCING AT TWO WEDDINGS--WITH THE SOVIETS AND
WITH THE WEST EUROPEANS". STRAUSS SAID THE FRG HAD
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BEEN "THE ONLY EUROPEAN STATE TO PROVE ITS GOOD WILL
WITH THE AMERICANS". ASKED WHERE THE US WOULD PLACE
ITS FUTURE FOREIGN POLICY PRIORITIES, STRAUSS SAID:
"I AM CONVINCED THAT THE AMERICANS WILL STAKE THEIR
INTERESTS IN ALL AREAS OF THE WORLD WITH THE RUSSIANS.
IT CAN EVEN AMOUNT TO AN AMERICAN-RUSSIAN COOPERATION
VIS-A-VIS WEST EUROPE, AND CERTAINLY OVER OUR
HEADS". STRAUSS SAID UNILATERAL US TROOP CUTS WOULD
HAVE "PROFOUND CONSEQUENCES, NOT ONLY FOR OUR SECURITY
BUT ALSO (IN TERMS OF) PRESERVING THE FREE INTERNAL
SOCIAL ORDER IN WESTERN EUROPE". ASKED WHAT IS TO BE
DONE, STRAUSS CALLED FOR A "VERY EARLY ATLANTIC SUMMIT
MEETING". HE ALSO URGED THE FRG TO PROMOTE A WEST
EUROPEAN FEDERAL STATE AND, UNDETERRED BY ANYONE,
TO GIVE PRIORITY TO RELATIONS WITH THE USA, BILATERALLY
IF NECESSARY.
HILLENBRAND

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